

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 8 June 2006 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Wallace Gernt, Maria R. Gil, Denise Panichas, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly

Excused Absence: Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, Ph.D.

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and

Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by five in favor and none opposed (5-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Gernt, Gil, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application for change in effective control of East Providence Medical Center, Inc. located at 525 Taunton Avenue in East Providence. Staff noted that a letter was handed out correcting the present ownership. Staff stated that the proposed ownership would be 50% Ronald DeThomas and 50% Daniela Turacova.

Mr. Zubiago, legal counsel to the applicant, stated that East Providence Medical Center (“EPMC”) is an urgent care center. There are currently five owners, four of which will retire and are proposed to be bought out. He stated that the proposed new owners will be Mr. DeThomas and Dr. Turacova. He stated that in the past Dr. Turacova

was the medical director of EPMC, her medical practice is in the same building as EPMC and she can take an active role in EPMC. Mr. Zubiago noted that Mr. DeThomas has been managing the EPMC since it started and will continue in that role. He discussed how this proposal meets the review requirements.

The Committee discussed the issue of charity care. Staff noted that the Committee has expressed a desire for a standard charity care requirement. Staff noted that a proposal on this issue will be provided to the Committee for the next meeting for the Committee's consideration.

Mr. Zubiago discussed the transfer documents. He stated that initially Renaissance Medical was going to buy ownership but it did not pursue that venture. He stated that now Mr. DeThomas and Dr. Turacova are the buyers and Renaissance Medical is not involved.

Staff noted an error in the amount listed under charity care for FY 2006 and the applicant agreed to make a revision. The Chairman asked for the facility's charity care policy.

With regards to discussion on charity care, a member inquired if this would require a regulation, Mr. Miller, legal counsel to the Department, stated that the Health Services Council adopted a policy regarding equity that was not in regulations and if this model is followed for charity care then it would not require a regulation. He

stated that he will need to study this further. He stated he will review the equity policy and he doesn't want to contradict what has already been done. Discussion ensued regarding charity care policy and compliance. Mr. Miller stated that if the Health Services Council decided in advance on a standard basis on a charity care provision, whether or not that needs to become a regulation rather than a sub ranking of a policy, it does not subtract from the authority from the Council on an individual basis, on an individual application and on the facts of that particular application, their jurisdiction with respect to insisting upon some kind of charity care requirement. He stated that he believes that the Council has the authority to individually assess whether or not, within the facts and circumstances of the issue, to impose a charity care condition.

The Chairman stated that staff will send out follow up questions to the applicant.

The next item on the agenda was the Application of Neighbors Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Senior Helpers for initial licensure of a Home Care Provider Agency at 75 Main Street in East Greenwich. Staff handed out definitions of administrator from the rules and regulations.

Mr. Neighbors, proposed owner, identified his experience in construction business. He stated this facility would be a franchise of

Senior Helpers, a company based in Baltimore, Maryland. He stated that he purchased the franchise and had two weeks of training. He stated that the proposed facility will offer CNA services. Mr. Neighbors stated that he would be the administrator of the facility.

The Chairman inquired if Mr. Neighbors had experience as an administrator in a home health agency. Mr. Neighbors stated that has personal experience. Staff read the administrator definition ‘an individual who: (1) is a licensed physician; or (2) has training and experience in health service administration and at least one year of supervisory or administrative experience in home nursing care or home care or related health programs; or (3) is a registered nurse who meets qualifications of as set forth in reference 2.’ Staff asked the applicant to identify which of the three qualifications he meets. He stated that he has experience as administration and he has an ability to work with a RN. Staff noted that the requirement specifies experience in a home care program.

The Chairman stated he doesn’t believe Mr. Neighbors meets the criteria to be an administrator of the facility. The Chairman stated that this should not be a training ground for Mr. Neighbors. He asked for detailed description of the training program. Staff noted that the requirements are a regulation and not policy and asked if the applicant was planning on requesting a variance from the licensing agency. Ms. Neighbors stated that he is not interested in seeking a variance. He stated that he would find a qualified administrator but

felt that he could do the job best.

It was noted that staff would send follow up questions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova